

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An open research and development method includes the steps of: sending membership solicitation information to a communications network from a predetermined server; causing an applicant for membership to report predetermined items from a network terminal operated by the applicant, by way of the communications network; performing examination operation on the reported information in connection with membership registration; registering the information about the applicant into a membership database on at least the condition that the applicant should have passed the examination operation; and accumulating, into a knowledge database, information which has been transmitted from members registered in the membership database by way of the communications network in relation to a specific topic.